

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PINT, CB, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LON NOL'S REMARKS TO CODEL

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION MADE BY EMBASSY OF MARSHAL LON NOL'S EXTEMPRANEOUS OPENING REMARKS TO CODEL WHICH CALLED ON HIM MARCH 1 AT CHAMCAR MON. ENGLISH TRANSLATION WAS BY AMBASSADOR UM SIM. FYI. COPIES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT WERE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF CODEL BY EMBASSY AND SENATOR BARTLETT APPARENTLY GAVE IT OR PORTIONS OF IT TO PRESSMEN ON FLIGHT BACK TO SAIGON. END FYI.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

ON BEHALF OF THE KHMER PEOPLE AND THE KHMER GOVERNMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR COUNTRY. YOU HAVE COME FROM FAR AWAY TO SEE THE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY FOR YOURSELF. FOR THIS WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL. I WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE WILLINGNESS YOU HAVE SHOWN IN COMING TO SEE OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS NOW A WAR-TORN COUNTRY. I ONLY REGRET THAT YOUR STAY HERE IS SO SHORT.

IT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOW EVERYTHING TO YOU IN SUCH A SHORT VISIT. HOWEVER, MY GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WILL BE READY TO MAKE EVERYTHING AVAILABLE TO YOU.

WHATEVER YOU WANT TO SEE YOU CAN SEE FREELY; WHOMEVER

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YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOU CAN TALK TO FREELY. WE WILL

COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO HELP YOU.

TODAY I FEEL QUITE HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE COUNTRY THAT HAS HELPED MINE FOR NEARLY FIVE YEARS NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR HAVING HELPED US THROUGH THESE FIVE YEARS. THE HELP FROM YOUR COUNTRY HAS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF MY COUNTRY.

THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WERE NOT PREPARED FOR AN INVASION. HOWEVER, WITH THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES WE HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO STRUGGLE UP TO THIS DAY. THE ENEMY'S DESIGN TO TAKE THE WHOLE COUNTRY IN ONLY TWO WEEKS OF FIGHTING NOW HAS BEEN CHANGED. THE TWO WEEKS OF FIGHTING HAS CHANGED TO FIVE YEARS OF WAR. THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE WAR FOR ITSELF. THEY ARE DEEPLY BUDDHIST AND THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE FLED THE ENEMY'S CONTROLLED AREA TO COME TO THE CITY. YOU HAVE PROBABLY SEEN AND YOU WILL CERTAINLY SEE THE DETERMINATION OF OUR ARMED FORCES TO STRUGGLE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE COUNTRY, AND YOU WILL ALSO SEE THE DETERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE TO COME FOR FREEDOM. BUT THE ENEMY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO COME AND BURN DOWN THE VILLAGES OF THE REFUGEES.

THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, AS I JUST MENTIONED, DO NOT LIKE WAR. THEY ALL LIKE TO HAVE PEACE--PEACE FOR EVERYBODY. TO MEET WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE I HAVE REPEATEDLY OFFERED THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT. WE ARE QUITE SATISFIED TO KNOW THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS ARE ALSO FAVORING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION. IF PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT OUR FAULT. THE OTHER SIDE IS AT FAULT. THE STRUGGLE THAT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH DURING THESE FIVE YEARS IS JUST TO PREVENT THE OTHER SIDE FROM IMPOSING ON PEOPLE ON THIS SIDE AN IDEOLOGY WHICH IS FOREIGN--ALIEN--TO THE PEOPLE. WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT WE CAN OBTAIN PEACE AND FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY.

OUR PEOPLE ARE ENDOWED WITH A CONSTITUTION AND MANY
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INSTITUTIONS, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. WE ARE JUST DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE INSTITUTIONS. I WAS BROUGHT TO THIS HIGH OFFICE BY THE INSTITUTIONALIZED ORGANIZATION, BUT FOR THE PEACE OF MY COUNTRY AND FOR THE WELFARE OF MY COUNTRY I WOULD DO WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY SO THAT PEACE AND THE WELFARE OF MY PEOPLE CAN BE ACHIEVED. THE WAR THAT WE HAVE WAGED UP TO THIS POINT IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING A MILITARY VICTORY ON THE OTHER SIDE. WE RE

FIGHTING JUST SO THAT THE OTHER SIDE REALIZES AS MUCH AS WE DO
THAT A PEACFUL SETTLEMENT IS A MUST FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. WE
ARE CONVINCED THAT THE WORLD TODAY--THAT THE UNITED NATIONS OR-
GANIZATION, THE WORLD'S PEOPLE--DO NOT WANT A SETTLEMENT
BY FORCES OF ARMS. THE WORLD TODAY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF ITS PEOPLE.

I WISH THAT YOUR VISIT TO MY COUNTRY BE FRUITFUL
AND ENJOYABLE AND IF ANY ONE OF YOU HAS ANY QUESTION,
I AM PREPARED TO ANSWER. AFTER THE MEETING YOU WILL HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MANY PLACES AND IF YOU STILL HAVE
QUESTIONS, THE CAMBODIAN SIDE WILL BE READY TO ANSWER
THEM.

ONCE MORE, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION
FOR MAKING YOUR TRIP TO MY COUNTRY POSSIBLE. THANK YOU
ONCE MORE. END TEXT.
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